

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 NAIROB 08111 281834Z
ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 DHA-02 H-02 /019 W
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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9331

UNCLAS NAIROBI 8111

DEPT. FOR SCS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CARR
SUBJ: "PUBLIC" DEFENDER" LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN KENYA

THERE IS NO GOVERNMENT-SUPPLIED LEGAL ASSISTANCE OF THE "PUBLIC DEFENDER" VARIETY IN KENYA. HOWEVER, THERE DOES EXIST A PRIVATE, VOLUNTEER AGENCY, THE LEGAL ADVICE CENTER, WHICH DOES UNDERTAKE TO PROVIDE LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS UNABLE TO AFFORD AN ATTORNEY. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN ADVISED THAT THE CENTER WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST AMERICANS IF THEY WERE UNABLE TO PAY FOR A PRIVATE ATTORNEY. A REVIEW OF THE ATTORNEYS VOLUNTEERING THEIR SERVICES TO THE CENTER DISCLOSES THAT SEVERAL OF NAIROBI'S MAJOR LAW FIRMS ARE REPRESENTED, INCLUDING FIRMS PRESENTLY ON THE EMBASSY'S LIST OF ATTORNEYS. THE EMBASSY HAS HAD NO EXPERIENCE, HOWEVER, WITH AMERICANS WHO HAVE USED THIS SERVICE. IN RECENT YEARS CASES INVOLVING AMERICANS HAVE USUALLY BEEN EITHER SERIOUS MATTERS AFFECTING PERSONS ABLE TO RETAIN PRIVATE ATTORNEYS, OR MISDEMEANOR-LEVEL OFFENSES IN WHICH THE DEFENDANT OFTEN PLEADS GUILTY AND IS RELEASED ON PAYMENT OF A NOMINAL FINE. NO CASES IN RECENT MEMORY HAVE INVOLVED INDIGENT AMERICAN DEFENDANTS ACCUSED OF SERIOUS OFFENSES, IN WHICH THE LACK OF "PUBLIC DEFENDER" ASSISTANCE MIGHT RESULT IN AN UNDEFENDED AMERICAN RECEIVING A LONG JAIL TERM.

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Litigation History:
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Subject: \"PUBLIC\" DEFENDER\" LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN KENYA THERE IS NO GOVERNMENT-SUPPLIED LEGAL ASSISTANCE OF THE
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TAGS: CARR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4c43da75-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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